

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20506

October 5, 1971

NSC Declassification/Release Instructions on File

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: CCINC SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: PAUL L. PERITO, GENERAL COUNSEL AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE  
SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

RE: RECENT CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE  
DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

Recently, several groups representing the Departments of State, Defense and Justice have been holding a series of Congressional briefings concerning the international narcotics (licit and illicit) problems. I have been advised by several informed sources, and several Members of Congress, that these briefings have been exceedingly useful. However, in view of the intrigue and mystique associated with the problems of the flow of illicit narcotics and dangerous drugs, several Members of Congress have wrongfully assumed that line operating functions relating to the above-described Agencies will be included under the broad umbrella of the Special Action Office legislation now pending in the House and Senate. This unfortunate misunderstanding has led many Members of Congress, and their respective staffs, to urge that the Administration include under the aegis of the Director of the Special Action Office control and/or policy coordination over the law enforcement and international negotiation aspects of the drug abuse problem.

It would be exceedingly helpful to us if representatives from your Agencies disabused Congressmen of the notion that the Administration's Bill was intended to cover line operating functions and/or policy in areas relating to law enforcement and international negotiations concerning narcotics and dangerous drugs.

It would also be helpful if your respective Agencies advised our Office about these briefings so that representatives of your organization could coordinate with our Congressional Relations Director in order that we be kept fully informed of the time, place and nature of these briefings. If a representative of the Special Action Office accompanied your representatives, we would give to the Congress a picture of coordination between and among our respective

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efforts and responsibilities.

I would appreciate any further comments which you may have on my suggested approach. In my absence, please contact John Meagher, Director of Congressional Relations of the Special Action Office at ext. 6673.

PLP

/rsg

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## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

STATINTL

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

6857  
1204

DATE

6 October 1971

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S  
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1. OLC  
7 D 43  
HQ

1. Your comments on the attached will be most welcome. It is not clear whether Mr. Perito is suggesting that we take along one of his officers when we visit Congress. If this is his suggestion, the presence of his officer probably will confirm Congressmen in their suspicion that the Special Action Office is coordinating us all.
2. The White House Working Group has selected Henry Cox to be their man in charge of public relations and Congressional liaison. Cox is a former FBI and foreign service officer. He now comes from Chicago where he has been a public relations man for a foundation. He was nominated to the job by the White House Public Affairs Office. He may get in touch with you at a later date.

STATINTL

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